THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Package for farmers

†1381. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts for which a package worth Rs. 16978 crores has been given by Government for farmers;

(b) the loans taken by farmers of these districts from banks and loan amount out of the above repaid so far by Government;

(c) the amount provided so far to the affected farmers by Government and the basis thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware that a large number of farmers have taken loans from money-lenders as well as from other sources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken by Government for payment of the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Govemment has approved a package to address the issue of farmers' distress which *interalia,* has a component relating to agricultural credit, for mitigating the distress of farmers in 31 debt stressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

Name of the State	Name of affected districts
Andhra Pradesh(16)	Prakasam, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Ananthapur, Kurnool, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mohbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Rangareddy, Warangal.
Karnataka(6)	Belgaum, Hassan, Chitradurga, Chimaglur, Kadogu, Shimoga.
Kerala(3)	Wayanad, Palakkad, Kasaragod.
Maharashtra(6)	Amravati, Wardha, Yavatmal, Akola, Washim and Buldhana

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The outstanding Agricultural Loan in the affected districts in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 15980.44 crore, Karnataka, Rs. 4963.95 crore, Kerala Rs. 2107.69 crore and in Maharashtra, the outstanding agricultural loan is Rs. 2263.81 crore.

The package provides for:—

(i) The entire interest on overdue loans as on July 01,2006 to be waived in all the affected districts and all farmers will have no past interest burden as on that date, so that they are immediately.be eligible for fresh loans from the banking system.

(ii) The overdue loans of the farmers as on July 01,2006 to be rescheduled over a period of 3—5 years with a one-year moratorium.

(iii) A credit flow of Rs. 13,817.78 crore, Rs. 3,076.20 crore, Rs. 1,945.07 crore and Rs. 2583.39 crores will be ensured in the above debt stressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra respectively in 2006.07.

As on 31 10.2006, overdue interest of Rs. 619.96 crore has been waived and Rs. 1668.61 crore has been provided as credit against the allocation of Rs. 2583.39 crore for six debt stressed districts of Maharashtra. As for other states the progress of the implementation of the package with respect to credit and interest waiver is as under:—

(i) The Convenor State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) in Karnataka State has allocated agency-wise target to the six distressed districts and the respective Lead District Managers(LDM) have been advised to allot bank-wise target.

(ii) In Andhra Pradesh, the process of identification of beneficiaries is in progress.

(iii) In Kerala, the LDMs have circulated the guidelines to the Banks and overdue interest is being assessed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per situation assessment survey of indebtedness of farmer households conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation with respect to the position during January to December 2003,57.6% of the loans are sourced from Government Sector (Government, cooperatives and banks) while 42.4% of the loans are sourced from private sector(professional money lenders, traders, relatives and others). Banking

facilities are being expanded in rural areas for wider financial inclusion. In this regard, Banks have been advised to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations(NGOs), Self Help Groups(SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and other Civil Services Organisations as intermediaries in Facilitator and Correspondent models.

Mandatory filing of IT returns in rural areas

†1382. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it mandatory for people of rural areas to file their income tax return;

(b) whether it is a fact that the people of rural areas are unable to file their income tax return on their own;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the people of rural areas are on the verge of starvation due to floods and draught and it is not possible for them to hire the services of Chartered Accountants; and

(d) if so, the basis of making it mandatory for people of rural areas to file their income tax return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Every person whether residing in an urban area or rural area, is liable to file return of his income if his income chargeable to Income-tax exceeds the threshold limit. Since agricultural income is exempt from income-tax, a person residing in rural area whose non-agricultural income does not exceed the threshold limit is not liable to file the return of income.

(b) to (d) Since the income of such persons would generally be below the threshold limit, they would not be liable to file their income-tax returns. In any case, it is the continuous effort of the Government to provide quality taxpayers' service so as to enable small and marginal taxpayers to comply with the requirement of filing the tax returns.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.